

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01585 221747Z

62

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SUBJ: CODEL FRASER: MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1706

1. AS REPORTED PARA 2 REFTTEL, CODEL, CONCSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES GIBBONS, FRELINGHUYSEN, REUSS, YATRON, GUDE AND RYAN (FRASER HAD NOT YET ARRIVED IN BRUSSELS AND BURKE WAS ILL), MET ON MONDAY MORNING MAR 18 WITH AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD FOLLOWED BY A WORKING LUNCH HOSTED BY RUMSFELD WITH SEVERAL NATO PERMREPS AND KEY EXECUTIVES FROM THE NATO IS AND IMS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

2. FOCUS OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST DURING ENTIRE NATO PORTION OF THEIR BRUSSELS' VISIT WAS ON THE U.S. TROOP COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE AND HOW THAT COMMITMENT RELATED WITH A) THE U.S.-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES OVER THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND POLITICAL CONSUL-TATIONS, B) PROGRESS TO-DATE AND PROSPECTS FOR BURDENSARING, AND C) THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

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PAGE 02 NATO 01585 221747Z

3. RUMSFELD, KEYING HIS PRESENTATION TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, EMPHASIZED: A) THE NEED FOR PRECISION WHEN TALKING ABOUT "EUOPE" SO AS TO AVOID CONFUSION AMONG THE EC-9, THE NATO EUROPEAN ALLIES, WESTERN AND NEUTRAL EUROPE, AND GEO-

GRAPHICAL EUROPE, B) THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHARACTERS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR EUROPEAN NATO ALLIES
IN FORMULATING OUR DEMANDS UPON THEM AND OUR EXPECTATIONS,
C) THE NEED TO DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN BENEFITS TO THE U.S. AND BENEFITS TO EUROPE FLOWING FROM THE U.S. TROOP PRESENCE HERE, D) THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MODD OF EUROPEANS PARTICULARLY YOUTHFUL ONES, E) COMPARISON OF TRENDS IN U.S. AND ALLIED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF PERCENT OF GNP, F) U.S. INTEREST IN MAINTAINING STABILITY IN EUROPE AS INSTABILITY IN THE PAST HAS LED TO SITUATIONS WHICH COST THE U.S. IMMENSELY MORE THAN WE ARE NOW SPENDING, AND G) MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW MBFR MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY UNILATERAL TROOP CUTS.

4. COMMENT: RUMSFELD SAW MEMBERS OF CODEL ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE BRUSSELS' VISIT IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL SESSION AT NATO. REPRESENTATIVES MADE POINT OF EXPRESSING TO THE AMBASSADOR THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE ENTIRE BRUSSELS' PROGRAM. WITH REGARD TO THE PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE U.S. TROOP COMMITMENT DISCUSSIONS, FACTUAL PRESENTATIONS ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS SEEMED TO MAKE PARTICULAR IMPRESSION ON CODEL: A) THE STATUS AND IVTALITY OF EUROGROUP AND EDIP, B) DISTINCTIONS AMONG THE VARIOUS DOLLAR FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH COST OF KEEPING U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE \$17 BILLION BUDGETARY FIGURE AND THE U.S. BOP ON MILITARY ACCOUNT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO
CONGRESSMAN REUSS' QUESTION AT LUNCHEON AS TO HOW A 30 TO 35,000 CUT IN U.S. FORCES WOULD BE RECEIVED IN EUROPE, EUROPEANS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY AND EMPHATICALLY PREDICTED A NEGATIVE EFFECT.
RUMSFELD

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